

From: Alain Bertrand
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I just read the proposed settlement between Microsoft, and the DOJ (and several states) and it seems that Microsoft is being given a government sanctioned monopoly, instead of a punishment meant to keep it from continuing to abuse it s monopoly. Microsoft is in a position now to take over, and monopolize several other markets, if they are not stopped now. The bigger we let the problem get, the harder it will be to fix later.

Microsoft has a long, clear history of abusing it s position as a monopoly, and exploiting every possible loophole to continue doing so. Even a non lawyer can see several loopholes in this agreement that would allow Microsoft to continue with the business practices that started the whole court battle. Unless something far stronger then this is done to keep Microsoft in check they will continue to use their monopoly position in Operating Systems to push other products into monopoly positions.

I firmly believe that the proposed final judgment will not even slow Microsoft s expansion through illegal means. If this proposal is made the final judgment we will have a much larger monopoly to try to deal with in a few years. This agreement is a complete victory for Microsoft, at the expense of the consumer.

One final thought, if Microsoft is allowed to get away with such blatant violations of antitrust laws, how can we expect any other large, rich corporation to take these laws seriously. It is not just Microsoft on trial here, but now the antitrust laws themselves are threatened.

Thank you for your time,

Alain Bertrand